

Border Patrol Agents to Receive Pay Upgrades

Nearly 5,000 Border Patrol agents nationwide will receive substantial pay raises next week as part of a supplemental spending bill recently signed by the President. Locally, approximately 800 Border Patrol agents will be affected by the change.

The pay upgrades, which take effect August 11, represent initial salary increases ranging from \$2,000 to more than \$6,000, excluding locality pay and overtime, for eligible Border Patrol agents. The change also boosts the top base pay for these positions to more than \$54,000 a year, excluding locality pay and overtime. Border Patrol officials say the upgrades are crucial to the agency's efforts to hire and retain top personnel.

"These pay upgrade are long overdue," said Chief Patrol Agent Bill Veal of the San Diego Sector. "Agents currently working in the San Diego Sector are at a tremendous disadvantage when you factor in the cost of living. The upgrades are a positive move in addressing the disparity in pay between the Border Patrol and other area law enforcement agencies."

Previously, only "senior" Border Patrol agents were compensated at the GS-11 level. The pay upgrades mean Border Patrol agents who serve satisfactorily for one year as a GS-9 will be eligible for promotion to the GS-11 level with an initial base salary of more than \$41,000, not including locality pay and overtime. On top of their base pay, Border Patrol agents earn substantial amounts of overtime.

Information and applications for Border Patrol agents are available on the web at www.usajobs.opm.gov.